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Message Text

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----------220431Z 050077 /61
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
TREASURY
GOVGUAM

UNCLAS STATE 089874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 21 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. LAOS

RIGHTIST REBELS FAIL IN ATTEMPTS RESCUE FORMER LAOTIAN KING, MAKE HIM HEAD EXILE GOVT, ACCORDING SENIOR GOVT OFFICIAL (REUTER BANGKOK).

2. THAILAND

RTG EXECUTES EX-GEN CHALARD W/0 TRIAL FOR HIS PART IN LAST MO'S ABORTIVE COUP (REUTER BANGKOK).
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RTA SPOKESMAN SAYS 80 COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS KIA/40 CAPTURED/169 SURRENDERED IN 1ST 3 MOS THIS YR (REUTER BANGKOK).

3. PHILIPPINES

SUN REPORTS CIA BUGS PHONE CALLS OF FE ALLY, ACCORDING AGENCY'S SECURITY DIRECTOR WHO TESTIFIED AT FEDL ESPIONAGE TRIAL OF EDWIN MOORE. COUNTRY NOT NAMED, BUT PRESS REPORTS IN JAN DISCLOSED FORD ADMIN HAD BEEN MONITORING CONVERSA-

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TIONS PHIL GOVT.
MORO NLF REJECTS RESULTS TOP-SPONSORED REFERENDUM IN SW PHILS AFTER PRELIMINARY RESULTS INDICATE VOTE MIGHT FAVOR REMAINING UNDER CONTROL MANILA GOVT (WP).

PAMPHLET PUBLISHED BY RC MISSION ASSN CHARGES GOP "SANC-TIONS, OR AT LEAST TOLERATES" TORTURE. PAMPHLET CONTAINS ALLEGED TESTIMONY 20 PRISONERS (WIDEMAN, WP).

4. CHINA

CSM CARRIES PIC/BRIEF REPORT, SOURCES TO ADMIN OFFICIALS, THAT WOODCOCK CHOSEN NEW US ENVOY TO PRC.

ACCORDING AP (MOSCOW), SOV'S HAVE STEPPED UP PROGAGANDA WAR W/PRC, MAJOR ARTICLE IN "NEW TIMES" CHARGING PEKING LEADERS W/FAILURE RENOUNCE MAOISM AND CONTINUING FAN ANTI-SOV HYSTERIA. PITCH SOV PROPANDA EFFORT SEEN BACK TO THAT PRIOR MAO DEATH (SUN).

REUTER (PEKING) SAYS PRC POLITICAL FACTIONALISM NOT COMPLETELY QUELLED, CITES RECENT RADIO BROADCASTS FROM YUNNAN/SHANSI/LIAONING PROVINCES AND HANGCHOW.

5. JAPAN
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BRIEFING FON PRESS IN TOKYO 4/20, MITI'S DIRECTOR GENRL FOR INTL TRADE POLICY YANO SAID US-JAPAN TALKS ON RESTRICT-ING TV EXPORTS TO US HAVE BOGGED DOWN OVER DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES INCOMPLETE TV SET. SAID POINT RAISED BY US/TOOK JAPAN BY SURPRISE (REUTER TOKYO 4/20, EXCERPTED IN WP).

CANADIAN EMB IN TOKYO SAID CANADA HOPES FINAL TALKS W/JAPAN ON REVISION BILATERAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT WILL RESUME 5/2 IN OTTAWA. NEGOTS TO PUT IN WRITING AGREEMENT REACHED THRU DIPL CHANNELS LAST MONTH ON NEW SAFEGUARDS ON URANIUM SUPPLIED JAPAN BY CANADA. CANADA WILL NOT RESUME SHIPMENTS, HALTED 1/1, UNTIL AGREEMENT SIGNED (REUTER TOKYO).

JAPAN-CANADA CULTURAL AGREEMENT, SIGNED IN TOKYO LAST OCT DURING TRUDEAU VISIT, APPROVED 4/21 BY DIET'S LOWER HOUSE/IMMEDIATELY SENT TO UPPER HOUSE FOR RATIFICATION (REUTER TOKYO).

US HOUSE APPROVED AMENDMENT TO EXPORT ADMINISTRATION BILL 4/20 WHICH BANS EXPORT ALASKAN OIL FOR 2 YRS PENDING PLANS FOR DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION. CONN REP MCKINNEY, AMEND-MENT'S SPONSOR, MENTIONED FACT UNDER PRESENT LAW ANY/ALL ALASKAN OIL IN EXCESS US NEEDS COULD BE EXPORTED, MEANING UP TO 400,000 BBL DAILY COULD GO TO JAPAN (REUTER 4/20).

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NYT CARRIES FOTO SEN ENERGY CMTE CHRMN JACKSON W/LDP ENERGY SPECIALIST SASAKI/DIETMAN YOSANO. JAPANESE IN WASHINGTON TO STUDY IMPLICATIONS CARTER'S ENERGY POLICY.

SUN'S SEIDEN (TOKYO) REPORTS JAPANESE RAIL WORKERS BEGAN SCHEDULED 3-DAY STRIKE 4/20 THAT STOPPED MAJOR TRAIN LINES/JAMMED COUNTRY'S HIGHWAYS W/MILES BACKED-UP MOTOR VEHICLES/BICYCLES/PEDESTRIANS. LATER REPORTS NOTE WORKERS ENDED STRIKE AFTER 21 HRS/ACCEPTED 9.12 PCT PAY RAISE (WP; AP, NYDN; UPI, JOC). AIRLINE/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/POST-
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AL WORKERS ALSO INVOLVED IN STRIKE ACTION. JAL FORCED CANCEL 11 OF 21 INTL FIGHTS/25 OF 103 DOMESTIC FLIGHTS 4/21; TOA DOMESTIC AIRLINES FORCED CANCEL ALL 246 FLIGHTS (REUTER TOKYO; WSTAR).

WELS (JOC) REPORTS SINCE RUMORS OF DISCOUNT RATE CUT BEGAN CIRCULATE IN MARKETS WK AGO, YEN VALUE PLUNGED 3.6 PCT.

FAIRLY STRONG EARTHQUAKE ORIGINATING IN PAC OFF IBARAKI PROV TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED RR SERVICES IN CENTRAL/NORTHERN JAPAN 4/19; NO CASUALTIES REPORTED (UPI, NYT).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

6. DIEGO GARCIA

AT DG, COPLEY NEWS SERVICE'S PRINA (SAN DIEGO UNION 4/7) REPORTS USN FOR 1ST TIME OPENED 4/6 DG BASE TO REPORTERS/TV CAMERAS. US-UK NEWS MEDIA CONTINGENT OF 20 ALLOWED 5-HR VISIT. AT BRIEFING, ISLAND CMDR CAPT YOSWAY DECLINED CONFIRM/DENY DG COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY COMMUNICATES W/POLARIS, POSEIDON BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBS WHICH REPORTEDLY OPERATE IN AREA FROM TIME TO TIME. ALSO FENDED OFF SUG-GESTIONS US HAS ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING CAPABILITY THERE. PRINA CONCLUDES DG "QUITE PEACEFUL LOOKING, WITH NOT A WEAPON IN SIGHT," BUT ADDS IT HAS POTENTIAL BE "VERY IMPORTANT BASE" IN "INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE WORLD."

CHITRIB'S FULLER, AMONG VISITING REPORTERS, NOTES NAVY OFFICERS "REPEATEDLY ASSERTED" DG NO BASE, BUT LIMITED RESUPPLY/COMMUNICATION FACILITY. SAYS CONCERN OVER CAR-TER'S INTENTION RE DG MAKES DOD NERVOUS ABOUT LOSING COMMUNICATIONS BASE. FULLER REVIEWS ISLAND'S HISTORY/HOW DG BASE DEVELOPED. ADDS IF INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION
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COMES ABOUT AND DG CLOSES DOWN, ISLAND WILL REVERT TO MAURITIUS ISLANDS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. CHINA

CDN'S KEYES BEECH SAYS ADMIN HAS LAUNCHED CAREFULLY-ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN LET PRC KNOW STILL MEMBER GOOD STANDING WASHINGTON-PEKING-MOSCOW TRIANGLE, EVEN THOUGH US PREOCCUPIED WITH SOVS/AF/ME. ACTIVITY CALCULATED KEEP CHINESE IN ORBIT WHILE US COMES GRIPS WITH QUESTION WHETHER CAN/SHOULD MOVE NOW ESTABLISH FULL RELS WITH PEKING AT EXPENSE ROC. SEEMS GENERAL AGREEMENT CONTINUED SINO-SOVIET HOSTILITY TO US ADVANTAGE, BUT MUST REMEMBER PRC CAN ALSO PLAY GAME.

BEECH NOTES VARIOUS ARGUMENTS FOR US RECOGNITION PRC HAVE MAJOR DISADVANTAGES. TAIWAN MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION--COULD SURVIVE, BUT NOT QUITE SAME, SHOULD US CUT UMBILICAL CORD. FEW BELIEVE/BUT NONE CAN GUARANTEE PEKING WOULD INVADE SHOULD US NULLIFY SECURITY TREATY, CARTER NOT LIKELY TAKE SUCH DRASTIC ACTION. ISSUE WOULD BECOME HOT DOMESTIC POL ISSUE. NONE IN ADMIN SEEMS WANT "ABANDON TAIWAN." CONCLUDES LITTLE LIKELY HAPPEN THIS YR; SINCE PRC SEEMS IN NO GREAT HURRY,LITTLE REASON WHY US SHOULD BE (GLOBE 4/19).

WP'S MATHEWS (CANTON) WRITES PRC HAS BEGUN FULFILL PROMISE NEW ERA IN FOREIGN TRADE WITH SPURT BUYING AT SPRING TRADE FAIR. IMPORTANT CONTRACTS FOR SALES AGR/CHEM/MINERAL/PERHAPS MINING EQUIPMENT REPORTEDLY NEAR SIGNATURE. UNUSUAL PRC DISCUSS PURCHASES SO EARLY IN FAIR, BUT INDICATIONS CHINESE HELD OFF SIGNING SOME US CONTRACTS NEGOTIATED IN PEKING TO ADD TO FAIR ROSTER SUCCESS. CHINESE EXPECTED GO OUT OF WAY SEE MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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BUSINESS FOR US. BAD NEWS IS CHINESE SAY CANNED FOOD/VEGETABLES/SOYBEANS IN SHORT SUPPLY. SELLERS US METALS (ANTIMONY/TUNGSTEN) ANTICIPATE 10-MILL-DOL BUSINESS. HIGH US DUTY PRC GOODS STILL HEADACHE. SIGNS OF NEW PRC TRADE ATTITUDE IS AGREEMENT TRADERS MAY PLACE OWN LABELS ON PRC-MADE GOODS. CHRONIC DELAYS IN DELIVERIES STILL FEARED.

SUN'S ISAACS (HK) REPORTS PRC HOPES "NEW LEAP" WILL SURPASS "GREAT LEAP-" "PD" INDICATES "NEW LEAP" INVOLVES "STEP-BY-STEP" IMPROVEMENT PEOPLE'S LIVING STD/DEVELOPMENT MORE MODERN TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING MIL TECHNOLOGY. EDITS INDICATE NEED MAINTAIN RATIONAL RULES/REGULATIONS/ENFORCE LABOR DISCIPLINE, SUPPORT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR

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WORKERS; CITE NEED BE BOTH RED/EXPERT, AND PAY RITUAL OBEISANCE TO PRINCIPLE SELF-RELIANCE WHILE NOTING NEED INTRODUCE NEW TECHNIQUES/EQUIPMENT FROM ABROAD. ECON PRIORITIES ALSO LISTED.

LAT ASSOCIATE EDITOR ROBERT DONOVAN HIGHLIGHTS VIEWS OF CHIANG CHING BIOGRAPHER ROXANNE WITKE ON ROLE OF WOMEN IN CHINESE SOCIETY--THEY THEY STILL TOIL IN PATRIARCHY. WITKE FOUND PRC "EXTRAORDINARILY LABOR-ORIENTED SOCIETY."

8. CHINA/HOLBROOKE

DURING VISIT TAIPEI, REP WOLFF SAID CONGRESS EXPECTED CONSIDER SALE F-16/OTHER ADVANCED WEAPONS TO TAIWAN, AND US CONSIDERS ROC SECURITY "AN IMPORTANT QUESTION." REPORT NOTES WOLFF ACCOMPANIED BY EA'S HOLBROOKE (NYT SPEC, TAIPEI).

9. INDOCHINA/SEA

WSJ RECALLS LBJ'S WARNINGS ABOUT COMMUNIST TYRANNY THAT WOULD DESCEND ON SVN IF US W/DREW WAR EFFORT; MENTIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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RECENT REVELATIONS RE CONDITIONS THERE BY FR GELIN. POINTS OUT LATEST ISSUE "WORLDVIEW" MAG CARRIES ARTICLE BY EX-DOS OFFICER RE "RE-EDUCATION" CAMPS THAT HOUSE AT LEAST 300,000; CITES OTHER "WORLDVIEW" PIECE THAT SUCH REPORTS DISTURB MORE AND MORE OF THOSE WHO PROTESTED US INVOLVEMENT IN VN; RECOUNTS SPLIT IN OLD ANTIWAR MOVEMENT OVER STORIES ARRESTS/DETENTIONS.

WSJ COMMENTS "AWAKENING" INTERESTING; NOTES MANY PROTEST LEADERS NOW WILLING VOICE DOUBTS RE NEW SRV REGIME, DESPITE EMBARRASSMENT. ADDS ATROCITIES IN NEW VN NOT SURPRISING/WERE PREDICTED. STATES EXPERIENCE IS THAT COMMUNIST REGIMES PRACTICE REPRESSION ON LARGE/MORE IRREVERSIBLE SCALE THAN "LESS IDEOLOGICALLY INSPIRED" TYRANTS.

BRADSHER (WSTAR 4/20) REVIEWS QUANTITY US-MADE ARMS CAPTURED BY VN. NOTES US EXPERTS SURPRISED THAT HANOI HAS NOT SUPPLIED GUERRILLAS/SOLD CAPTURED EQUIPMENT, BUT HAS HOARDED ARSENAL. POINTS OUT FEAR THAT HANOI WILL ARM SEA GUERRILLAS REMAINS STRONG; US OFFICIALS HAVE NO INFO THAT HANOI HAS ORGANIZED WEAPONS' DISTRIBUTION--DESPITE REPORTS REACHING CODEL WOLFF THAT US WEAPONS RECENTLY USED IN MALAYSIA/THAILAND INSURRECTIONS. BRAD-SHER OPINES THAT THIS DOES NOT RULE OUT VN SUPPORT INSURGENCIES IN FUTURE.

10. KOREA

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FROM CAMP CASEY, NYT'S MALCOLM HIGHLIGHTS WORK/RESPONSIBIL-
ITIES OF GEN BRADY, COMMANDING OFFICER OF ONLY US COMBAT
TROOPS LEFT ON ASIAN MAINLAND, WHO DESCRIBES HIS BUSINESS
AS WAR. GOAL IS READINESS. MALCOLM SAYS DEBATE/EFFECTS
OF CARTER DECISION W/DRAW US TROOPS BEING FELT ALL OVER
NE ASIA. PRES GAVE NO SPECIFIC REASONS PLAN W/DRAW TROOPS,
BUT SOME US OFFICIALS SAID FEEL TROOPS NOW LESS SYMBOL
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COMMITMENT/MORE HOSTAGE ASSURE US AUTOMATIC INVOLVEMENT
SHOULD HOSTILITIES ERUPT. CARTER SEEKS OPTION DECIDE
ON RE-INVOLVING US TROOPS. SOME IN JAPAN/SK SAID FEAR
W/DRAWAL MIGHT IGNITE POL INSTABILITY ON PENINSULA.

GLOBE SAYS US COMMITMENT HUMAN RTS MUST BE REAFFIRMED
EVEN WHERE HURTS/FRIENDLY OR HOSTILE TERRITORY. CAN'T
BE SILENT OVER WAVE SK POL ARRESTS. DOS EXPRESSION CON-
CERN OVER ARRESTS FOLLOWING CODEL DEPARTURE "HARDLY APPRO-
PRIATE," GIVEN TIMING/VEHEMENCE ROKG CAMPAIGN ON DISSENT.
SAYS CARTER ADMIN CAN MAKE CLEAR SERIOUSNESS W/WHICH
US VIEWS KOREAN REPRESSION BY THREATENTING ACCELERATE
PLANNED TROOP W/DRAWALS/REPLACE US AMB.

11. MALAYSIA

CSM KL SPEC NOTES DATO HARUN IDRIS APPEARED BEATEN MAN
FEW WKS AGO, BUT NOW SEEMS ON WAY BACK TO CENTER MALAYSIAN
POL STAGE. SAYS KEY IS RECENT SERIES TV CONFESSIONS
BY LEADING POL FIGURES WHO ACCUSED AIDING COMMUNIST CAUSES,
INCL 2 WHO WERE PROTEGES LATE PM TUN ABDUL RAZAK. POINTS
OUT DATO HARUN'S FOLLOWERS SEIZED OPPORTUNITY PROMOTE
HIM AS UNCOMPROMISABLE/VICTIM BACK-STABBING. ADDS DATO
HARUN'S RETURN TO POL ARENA IS UNSETTLING PROSPECT FOR
MANY, INCL PM ONN.

12. ADB

CARLSON (WSJ MANILA) NOTES ADB FUNNELED 1.63 BILLION
DOLS OVER PAST 10 YRS INTO HUNDREDS ECON PROJECTS IN
23 ASIAN/PAC COUNTRIES, W/FURTHER 1.76 BILLION AWAITING
ALLOTMENT. POINTS OUT ADB OFFICIALS NOW IN MANILA FOR
COMBINATION ANNUAL MTG/10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY. ADDS
MOST OBSERVERS APPLAUD BANK'S RECORD. REVIEWS ADB ORGANI-
ZATION, W/PRC MEMBERSHIP PERENNIAL ISSUE, AS WELL AS
POTENTIAL CONFLICT IN US STAND VS EXTENDING CREDITS TO
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COUNTRIES STIFLING POL EXPRESSION.

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PENNAR (JOC) SAYS ADB AIMS SPUR TOTAL LENDING TO 5.7
BILLION DOLS IN NEXT 5 YRS. SAYS 10TH ANNUAL MTG WILL

DISCUSS MEANS BY WHICH GOAL TO BE MET. NOTES GROUNDWORK
LAID LAST NOV WHEN BOARD AUTHORIZED INCREASE IN SUBSCRIBED
CAPITAL. RREVIEWS BROAD-BASED LENDING ACTIVITIES/CO-
FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.
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